

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on "The Future of Audio"**

**June 6, 2012**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

From the radio dramas and fireside chats of the 1930s to talk radio and the online streaming of today, audio content has been an integral part of American society for the last century. Just twenty years ago, the world of audio choices was relatively simple: AM, FM, cassette, or CD.

The world of audio in 2012 offers so much more. Broadcasters are using digital services to deliver "HD Radio," satellites 22,000 miles above the earth provide subscription radio service to millions of Americans, technological advances make it possible to carry an entire music library in your pocket, and an increasing number of Americans are streaming music over the Internet to their computers and wireless devices.

Not only has the ability to access a world of professional audio content gotten easier and more universal, the ability for people around the world to produce and distribute their own works over the Internet has changed major industries: music, journalism, and entertainment to name a few.

Today we'll hear from broadcasters that are innovating, mobile wireless providers that are making access to media ubiquitous, Internet pioneers that are leveraging the Internet to bring users personalized content channels, and professional artists at the center of it all on how this new media frontier is changing their industries and the way we listen to audio content. I will be particularly curious to hear their reaction to yesterday's announcement by Clear Channel and Big Machine. It looks to me like an agreement that might break a log jam that has plagued this space and help advance online radio. Best of all, it did not require legislation or regulation.

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